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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

April 11, 2018

Mr. Jim Carroll
Director
White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
750 17th St. NW
Washington D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Carroll:

As the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy reviews candidates for its High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designation, I would like to mention Butler County, Ohio for your consideration.

Butler County, like many counties in Ohio, has been hit hard by the opioid epidemic. With only a small portion of the state's population, it has 34 percent of the state's overdoses experiencing a 67 percent increase in overdose deaths since 2014. To regain control of the opioid trafficking problem, the county created the Butler County Undercover Regional Narcotics Task Force (BURN). BURN is a joint effort among six law enforcement agencies in Butler County which, despite limited resources, has proven effective recording 202 cases, executing 88 search warrants and charging 80 individuals with third degree felonies or above. With HIDTA resources, BURN could train more law enforcement officers, purchase better technology and provide better case support to its investigations. These efforts would align closely with HIDTA's goals.

Please give full and fair consideration to Butler County's request. I ask that you keep my office informed once a decision has been rendered.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator